

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 CPR-02 /063 W
-----056194 141824Z /72
P 131225Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2471
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

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FROM AMBASSADOR NORLAND

USUN FOR AMB YOUNG

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP, OVIP, US, BC
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT KHAMA'S RETURN FROM THE U.S.

REF: STATE 146919

1. PRESIDENT AND LADY KHAMA RETURNED TO GABORONE BY SMALL
CHARTERED JET AT 7 P.M. JUNE 10 AFTER VISIT TO U.S. JUNE 7-
9. ACCOMPANYING THE KHAMAS WERE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR PHIL
STEENKAMP, PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL PHYSICIAN DR. MERRIWETHER,
KHAMA'S TWIN SONS AND SECURITY OFFICER. (REMAINDER OF
PARTY RETURNED JUNE 11 ON REGULARLY SCHEDULED FLIGHT FROM
JOHANNESBURG.) DIPLOMATIC CORPS, RANKING GOVERNMENT OFFI-
CIALS AND SMALL FRIENDLY CROWD WERE ON HAND TO GREET THEM.

2. SINCE THE PRESIDENT AND PARTY WERE CONCLUDING NEARLY
18 HOURS OF FLYING (I.E., 17 HOURS DIRECT FROM NEW YORK TO
JOHANNESBURG PLUS 40-MINUTE ONWARD FLIGHT TO GABORONE), HE
AND LADY KHAMA MOVED QUICKLY DOWN THE RECEIVING LINE SHAK-
ING HANDS AND EXCHANGING BRIEF GREETINGS, E.G. WITHOUT
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MAKING ANY EFFORT TO DRAW ME ASIDE, BEFORE DRIVING OFF
TO STATE HOUSE.

3. THE ONLY REACTIONS CAME IN PASSING EXCHANGES WITH
DR. MERRIWETHER AND STEENKAMP. MERRIWETHER COMMENTED
THAT THE TRIP HAD GONE WELL, "ARRANGEMENTS" HAD WORKED
OUT. HE NOTED AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S DINNER HAD BEEN

"EXTREMELY NICE" WITH BRIEF, WARM AND "VERY APPROPRIATE" EXCHANGE OF TOASTS. AS HE MOVED OFF MERRIWETHER COMMENTED "AMERICA DID WELL BY US". STEENKAMP'S FIRST SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT WAS ALSO TO SINGLE OUT AMB YOUNG'S DINNER AS "MUCH APPRECIATED...JUST RIGHT". IN REPLY TO MY QUESTION STEENKAMP SAID HE HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN DELIBERATIONS ON THE "INVITATION" (NOT FURTHER SPECIFIED) TO ADD A WASHINGTON LEG TO THE ITINERARY. HE COMMENTED, "THE PRESIDENT'S BLOOD SUGAR WAS NOT RIGHT, SO IT WAS DECIDED NOT TO GO. NO HARD FEELINGS."

4. COMMENT: THE ABSENCE OF ANY INITIATIVE ON THEIR PART TO CONVEY REACTIONS OR IMPRESSIONS OF THE TRIP (EITHER UPON ARRIVAL OR FOLLOWING DAY) IS NOT SURPRISING IN VIEW OF THE NATURE OF THE VISIT AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE ARRIVAL. WE WELCOME COMMENTS FROM PARTICIPANTS AND OBSERVERS OF THE VISIT ITSELF (REF A, PARA 3) AS A GUIDE TO OUR FOLLOW-UP EFFORTS. MEANWHILE IT IS ALREADY EVIDENT THAT AMB YOUNG'S DINNER WAS A HIGHLIGHT OF THE VISIT. PLEASE CONVEY OUR WARMEST GRATITUDE.

ALBERTI

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 13 jun 1978
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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